

15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 MCT-03 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05  
CIAE-00 DGDE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /090 W  
-----047584 141752Z /40

- FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
- TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3842
- AMEMBASSY KABUL
- AMEMBASSY ROME
- INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
- AMCONSUL LAHORE
- AMCONSUL PESAWAR
- AMEMBASSY LONDON
- AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
- AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
- AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

- E.O. 12065 N/A
- TAGS: PEPR, PINS, MILI, SREF, AF, PK
- SUBJ(U) PRESS REPORTS ON AFGHAN DISSIDENT GROUPS' APPEALS TO FORMER KING ZAHIR SHAH

1. (U) URDU PRESS JULY 8 REPORTS TWO AFGHAN REBEL GROUPS (ANLF  
AND HEZB-I-ISLAMI) HAVE SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ROME TO APPEAL  
TO FORMER KING, ZAHIR SHAH, TO TAKE COMMAND OF DISSIDENT FORCES  
PRESENTLY FIGHTING DRA.

INTEREST." "JANG" ARTICLE PUTS THE PRESENT DRA ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL COUNT AT 92,000. IT ALSO REPORTS A RECENT DELIVERY OF HEAVILY-ARMED HELICOPTERS TO THE DRA FROM THE USSR, EACH WITH "FOUR ANTI-TANK GUNS, TWO GUIDED MISSILES, AND 128 OTHER MISSILES OF 57MM." THE AFGHAN FORCES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE A TOTAL OF 160 FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, 25 HELICOPTERS, 700 TANKS, AND MORE THAN 1000 ARMORED CARS.

PAGE NO. 1

39

3. COMMENT: (BEGIN LOU) THE APPROACHES TO ZAHIR SHAH BY THE DISSIDENT GROUPS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED PREVIOUSLY, ALTHOUGH THE DISSIDENT LEADERS DO SPEAK PRIVATELY OF THEM. PUBLICITY IN THE MEDIA NOW MAY REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT BY THE GOP TO BRING FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE DRA ( IN THE WAKE OF THE DOST V SIT TO ISLAMABAD, REFTEL B) TO CONTINUE THE BILATERAL DIALOGUE. THE APPEALS TO ZAHIR SHAH BY THE DISSIDENTS WOULD - IN THE MINDS OF MANY PAKISTANIS-- TEND TO LEGITIMIZE THEIR CAUSE AND DETRACT FROM THE "OUT-LAW" AND "BANDIT" IMAGE GIVEN TO THE GROUPS BY THE DRA, THUS MAKING THEIR PRESENCE ON PAK SOIL MORE DEFENSIBLE FOR THE GOP.

THE MILITARY STATISTICS PROBABLY EMANATED FROM THE DISSIDENT GROUPS' PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICES IN PESHAWAR AND ARE THEREFORE SUSPECT.(END LOU)(EXEMPT)  
RIGG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

BEST AVAILABLE COPY